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Front Page Other

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# Washington Mood Veers

## White House Puts New Value on Hardness As Crises Demand Aides Who Know Score

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Washington — It has been a poor week in Washington for the contemplative types.

First, President Mohammed Ayub Khan of Pakistan polished off his conquest of the American politician with his last man-on-horseback talk, to the obvious disadvantage of India's philosophical minded Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who then began talking tough himself.

Next, the head of Chester Bowles, Under Secretary of State, was prepared for rolling because he is not tough and efficient enough. Though the reports of Mr. Bowles' resignation were denied by the President and the President's press secretary, they both left the impression that the reports were not so much inaccurate as a little premature.

The new value on hardness in the White House may come

from the toughness of the times. On his return to Karachi, President Ayub promptly took up the issue of Kashmir, which he said India was wrongfully occupying because it is really part of Pakistan, adding, "I do not think anybody can stop me from defending our country against anybody." It may represent a transition from John Kennedy, the enunciator of finely turned speeches and the stimulator of intriguing ideas, to John Kennedy, the maker of hard decisions. It could be the change from a new us to a more tired President who saw himself the impresario of a creative chorus to a more tired President pressed by cruel decisions on all sides who now wants fewer creative performances and more men who know the traditional score.

### May Reflect Berlin

It may also reflect a mood in the capital of fatality and rigidity over the Berlin crisis, in which complex arguments of politics and international relations seem to give way to the simple yes-and-no situations of wartime.

It may have been this mood that gave President Ayub of Pakistan such a stunning reception in Congress and the Texas legislature to which bodies he delivered the unlikely homilies of increased spending. President Ayub has the charm of intelligence, directness, and the special appeal that the Sandhurst military man has for many Americans. But chiefly he spoke bluntly in a time of uncertainty in the United States, at a time when debate on foreign affairs has suddenly placed as Under Secretary of State a sign of weakness. State came from so many leaks, Berlin quite plainly means that the White House and State Department were torrents of no one wants a friend like Hamlet who can't make up his mind which side he is on.

### Nehru Reacts

But simplicity can be deceiving. President Ayub said, "We are friends; we stand by our word, no matter what it costs." The Texans from all states covered him. They were think-

ing. On his return to Karachi, President Ayub promptly took up the issue of Kashmir, which he said India was wrongfully occupying because it is really part of Pakistan, adding, "I do not think anybody can stop me from defending our country against anybody."

Prime Minister Nehru of India interpreted "anybody" to mean India. He made the highly untypical response that India has the capability to make atomic bombs if it wants to and will counter the "military aims" of Pakistan. While the Americans were saying that only Mr. Khrushchev can avoid a catastrophe in Berlin, Mr. Ayub said that only India "can avoid catastrophe in Kashmir." which Mr. Nehru said, "We are capable of defending ourselves with our own men and weapons."

Thus, the simple, blunt, decisive Ayub who stole the hearts of tough-minded congressmen was being simple, blunt and decisive about something the congressmen were not very concerned with. It may be that acting decisive is much easier than discovering what it is that needs decision. Which may explain partially the Bowles affair. Last week stories that Mr. Bowles was about to be reappointed as Under Secretary of State came from so many leaks that the White House and State Department were torrents of anonymous news from next to the very top. The reason for the change was supposed to be that the State Department was a mess organizationally and that while Secretary of State Dean Rusk was out making deliveries, Mr. Bowles didn't tend to store very well.

### Interested in Trend

While this is probably a valid criticism, it should be no surprise to those who appointed Mr. Bowles. Mr. Bowles is not popular with the hard school of diplomacy or the military. He is more interested in long-term trends of economic and social development than in short-range contests of hardware. When suddenly long-term trends appear academic and a contest of hardware imminent, he is at his most vulnerable to bureaucratic infighting.

Mr. Bowles was not in favor of the Cuban adventure, which was irking to powerful people in the White House, Pentagon and State Department who were He was not in favor of supporting Portugal in her fight against her colony of Angola, and this caused bitter rage among the Western Europe chiefs in the State Department who are the strongest influence on foreign policy.